

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims as indicated below:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting, comprising:

a body portion;

a fastener for connecting two construction element engaging components to one another, said fastener comprising a bolt extending between said two construction element engaging components and a nut for tightening on said bolt rigidly connecting said two construction element engaging components with a gap therebetween, said nut having a first side facing away from said body portion when said fastener is fitted for connecting said two construction element engaging components to one another and a second side of said nut opposed to said first side;

said body portion at least partially covering said nut for preventing access thereto by an unfastening tool and extending from said nut to a position alongside said bolt within said gap; and,

locking means movable relative to said body portion between a first position, wherein said apparatus is removable from said construction fitting, and a second position wherein said apparatus is prevented from being removed from said construction fitting, said locking means extending, in said second position, from said body portion in a direction toward said bolt with said gap, said second side of said nut being received in said

body portion with said locking means being located beyond said first side of said nut, and not between said first side and said second side of said nut, for rendering said nut inaccessible and thereby preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting when locked.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is movable within a bore in said body portion.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is a screw-threaded element.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is a pin lockable to said body portion in said second position.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said locking means is accessible, and movement is effected, via a shaped tool.

16. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 15, wherein said locking means and said shaped tool have respective key and keyhole elements engagable for moving said locking means from said second position to said first position.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said body portion surrounds, in use, substantially all otherwise exposed surfaces of said nut of said construction fitting, said body portion including a bore through which a free end of said bolt extends.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 11, wherein said body portion and said locking means are made of metal.

19. (currently amended) An apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting, comprising:

a body portion;

a fastener for connecting two construction element engaging components to one another, said fastener comprising a bolt extending between said two construction element engaging components and a nut for tightening on said bolt rigidly connecting said two construction element engaging components with a gap therebetween, said nut having a first side facing away from said body portion when said fastener is fitted for connecting said two construction element engaging components to one another and a second side of said nut opposed to said first side;

said body portion at least partially covering said nut for preventing access thereto by an unfastening tool and extending from said nut to a position alongside said bolt within said gap; and,

locking means comprising a grub screw that engages and tightens against said bolt, said locking being movable relative to said body portion between a first position, wherein said apparatus is removable from said construction fitting, and a second position wherein said apparatus is prevented from being removed from said construction fitting, said locking means extending, in said second position, from said body portion in a direction toward said bolt with said gap, said second side of said nut being received in said body portion with said locking means being located beyond said first side of said nut, and not between said first side and said second side of said nut, for rendering said nut inaccessible when said grub screw is tightened against said bolt, thereby preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting when locked.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said locking means is movable within a bore in said body portion.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said locking means is a screw-threaded element.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said locking means is a pin lockable to said body portion in said second position.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said locking means is accessible, and movement is effected, via a shaped tool.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said locking means and said shaped tool have respective key and keyhole elements engagable for moving said locking means from said second position to said first position.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said body portion surrounds, in use, substantially all otherwise exposed surfaces of said nut of said construction fitting, said body portion including a bore through which a free end of said bolt extends.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus for preventing removal of, or tampering with, a construction fitting according to Claim 19, wherein said body portion and said locking means are made of metal.

Claims 27 – 30 (canceled)